

Message Text

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22

ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CCO-00 PER-01 MMO-01 /014 W

----- 124939

R 241500Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7679

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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NAIROBI FOR RCO, CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FROM AMBASSADOR BOLEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, BC, WZ, LT

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH C&R POSITIONS

REF: STATE 041081

1. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT IN THE VITAL COMMUNICATIONS FIELD AND CONCUR WITH PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH POSITIONS IN MASERU AND MBABANE AS EXPLAINED REFTEL.

2. AS DISCUSSED MY LAST CONSULTATION, GABORONE'S COMMUNICATIONS ALSO REQUIRE INCREASED SUPPORT. OVERTIME COSTS FOR FY-76 ARE ESTIMATED AT US \$6,500 AND GROUP COUNT AT 7,780,000. ESTIMATES FOR FY 77 ARE OVERTIME US\$7,000 AND GROUND COUNT 2,000,000. COMMUNICATION SITUATION FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY LEASED LINE PROBLEMS. POST SCHEDULED TO BE ON WATTS ONLY IN 1979. UNTIL THEN, POST WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE FREQUENT OUTAGES DUE CIRCUIT PROBLEMS BETWEEN GABORONE AND PRETORIA CAUSING POSSIBLY CRITICAL TRAFFIC DELAYS.

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3. THIS CONSTANTLY INCREASING WORKLOAD WILL BE AUGMENTED BY

THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF TWO ADDITIONAL OFFICERS TO FILL NEW POSITIONS: A POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER AND AN AID DEPUTY OPERATIONS OFFICER. THESE POSITIONS WERE ESTABLISHED BECAUSE OF THE PROVEN NEED FOR MORE MANPOWER FOR THE EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES IN BOTSWANA. THE TWO NEW OFFICERS BY THE NATURE OF THEIR WORK WILL GENERATE MORE REPORTING AND OPERATIONAL CABLE TRAFFIC. ALTHOUGHT THE POSITION OF DCM SECRETARY HAS A COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING REQUIREMENT THE WORKLOAD DEMANDS THAT THE INCUMBENT'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY BE SECRETARIAL FOR THE DCM AND IRO LEAVING VERY LITTLE TIME TO DEVOTE TO C&R WORK.

4. BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS, I ESTIMATE THAT VERY SHORTLY THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKLOAD AT THIS EMBASSY WILL INCREASE BY AT LEAST ONE-HALF MAN YEAR. A SECOND COMMUNICATOR POSITION WILL THEN BE NECESSARY. WITH ADDED SECRETARIAL QUALIFICATIONS SUCH A POSITION WOULD ALSO BE CAPABLE OF BACKSTOPPING THE OTHER TWO SECRETARIES AND PROVIDE SOME CLASSIFIED SUPPORT TO THE NEW POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER.

BOLEN

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